

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended): An optical table comprising in height order: an upper sub-assembly, an intermediate skin, and a lower sub-assembly,

wherein the upper sub-assembly includes a top skin, an upper core, and a lower skin,

wherein the lower sub-assembly includes an intermediate skin, an upper skin, a lower core, and a bottom skin, and

~~wherein the upper core and the lower core have substantially similar structure;~~

wherein the intermediate skin is formed by bonding the lower skin of the upper sub-assembly to the upper skin of the lower sub-assembly.

2. (Currently amended): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate skin-comprises the lower skin of the upper sub-assembly bonded to the upper skin of the lower sub-assembly with an epoxy resin two sheets bonded together.

3. (Currently amended): An optical table according to claim 1, further comprising a spacer layer arranged under the top skin of the upper sub-assembly and separated from the upper core by a midskin.

4. (Previously presented): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the upper core and the lower core is made of formed steel.

5. (Previously presented): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the upper core and the lower core is made of composite material.

6. (Previously presented): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the upper core and the lower core is aluminum honeycomb.

7. (Currently amended): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the table has a thickness from top skin of the upper sub-assembly to bottom skin of the lower sub-assembly in excess of at least one of ~~the group of~~ 310, 460 and 600 mm.

8. (Currently amended): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein ~~the top skin, upper core and intermediate skin form a first subassembly and the intermediate skin, lower core and bottom skin form a second subassembly, and~~ each of the first and second subassemblies has a thickness less than at least one of ~~the group of~~ 350 mm, 300 mm and 250 mm.

9. (Original): An optical table system comprising an optical table according to claim 1 arranged on a plurality of supporting legs.

10. (Withdrawn): A method of manufacturing an optical table comprising:
making at least two subassemblies, wherein each subassembly is made by bonding a core to upper and lower skins, wherein the cores provide rigidity to the subassembly, and wherein the cores of the at least two subassemblies have substantially similar structures; and
bonding the subassemblies together to form the optical table.

11. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 10, wherein the bonding between the subassemblies is performed using a cold cure adhesive.

12. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 10, wherein the bonding between the subassemblies is performed using a hot cure adhesive.

13. (Withdrawn): An optical table formed of at least two subassemblies bonded together, each subassembly comprising a core bonded to upper and lower skins, wherein the lower skin of one subassembly is bonded to the upper skin of another subassembly arranged below it.

14. (Previously presented): An optical table according to claim 3, wherein the spacer layer provides space for peanuts.

15. (Currently amended): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the upper core and the lower core are composed of different materials selected from the group consisting of formed steel, a composite, and an aluminum honeycomb.

16. (Currently amended): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the upper ~~core~~ sub-assembly and the lower ~~core~~ sub-assembly have different thickness selected from the group of thicknesses consisting of about 155 mm, about 230 mm, about 250 mm, and about 300 mm.

17. (Currently amended): An optical table according to claim 1, wherein the top skin of the upper sub-assembly has a two dimensional grid of threaded holes.

18. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 10 wherein each core in the at least two subassemblies is composed of a material from the group consisting of formed steel, a composite, and an aluminum honeycomb, and wherein at least two cores in the at least two subassemblies are composed of a different material.

19. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 10, wherein each core in the at least two subassemblies has a thickness of about 155 mm, about 230 mm, about 250 mm, and about 300 mm, and wherein at least two cores in the at least two subassemblies have different thicknesses.

20. (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 10, wherein only one upper skin of one subassembly has a two dimensional grid of threaded holes.